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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,276	09/11/2003	Yutaka Nakanishi	P69115US0	5676

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EXAMINER	
LE, TUAN H	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/659,276	NAKANISHI, YUTAKA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tuan H. Le	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 March 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *11 September 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed March 7, 2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-6 under 103 (a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Kashimura (US Pat 5,381,179), Kamamoto et al (US Pat. 5,982,429), and Takagi et al (US Pat 6,226,448).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashimura (U.S. Pat. 5,381, 179) in view of Kamamoto et al (U.S. Pat. 5,982,429) and further in view of Takagi et al (6,226,448).

Regarding **claim 1**, Kashimura discloses a camera-equipped recording/reproducing apparatus, (see Kashimura, Figs. 1-3) comprising:

a lens assembly (11) having a lens group, (see Kashimura, Fig. 4);

an imaging device (12) that converts light from the lens assembly into an electrical signal, (see Kashimura, column 4 lines 5-10);

a body (1) having a first side face and a second side face opposite to the first side face when viewed from an object to be photographed, (see Kashimura, Figs. 1-4, wherein first side face is opposite to the grip and second side face is the face of the grip), the body being provided in series with and behind the lens assembly in a direction of an optical axis of the lens group when viewed from the object, (see Kashimura, Figs. 4 and 5, wherein the lens system is at front end);

Kashimura does not explicitly disclose a monitor screen on the first side face of the body.

However, Kamamoto et al discloses a monitor screen (7) provided on a side face of a video camera (see Kamamoto et al, Figs 2-5, wherein the LCD 7 is described in various position).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the LCD as described by Kamamoto et al into the camera-equipped recording/reproducing apparatus as described by Kashimura because the added LCD/monitor screen is useful for focusing and image reviewing, (see Kamamoto et al, column 1 lines 220-31, wherein, for instance, the LCD is useful when a number of people review recorded images at the same time).

Kashimura and Kamamoto et al disclose

a grip (4) provided on the second side face of the body, the grip being rotatable about an axis almost orthogonal to the optical axis, (see Kashimura et al, Figs. 1-4

and column 3 lines 36-37 and 60-64 wherein the grip is rotatably centering the shaft 1a).

However, Kashimura and Kamamoto et al do not disclose the grip housing a recording/reproducing unit, a storage medium for storing a video signal output by the imaging device being loadable into the recording/reproducing unit.

On the other hand, Takagi et al discloses the grip (10) housing a recording/reproducing unit, a storage medium (99) for storing a video signal output by the imaging device being loadable into the recording/reproducing unit, (see Takagi et al, Figs 7, 21, 22 and column 7 lines 20-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the grip housing a recording/reproducing unit as described by Takagi et al into the camera-equipped recording/reproducing apparatus as described by Kashimura and Kamamoto et al in order to provide storage compartment because such incorporation reduces the size of the apparatus, thus increasing portability.

As for **claim 2**, Kashimura further discloses that the body (1) houses at least an imaging device 12, (see Kashimura, Fig. 4 and column 4 lines 5-15, wherein light through a photographing lens system is photo-electrically converted into TV signal).

As for **claim 3**, Kashimura discloses that the grip (4) the grip has a specific width and a specific length longer than the width, the grip having a first end and an opposite second end both lying on the length, the first end being closer to the object than the second end being, the lens group having an end close to the object, when

the grip is rotated so that the length lies in the direction of the optical axis, the first end of the grip being positioned so that the first end is closer to the object than the end of the lens group is and the second end of the grip being positioned so that the second end is distant from the object than the imaging device is, (see Kashimura, Figs. 1-3, wherein the grip 4 has specific length and width and is placed at a certain position on the body of the video camera).

As for **claim 4**, Kashimura discloses that the grip (4) is fit in a concave section (2) formed over the lens assembly and the body, the grip being rotatable (around 1a shaft) in the concave section, (see Kashimura, Fig. 1 and column 3 lines 60-64, wherein the grip 4 is rotatable).

As for **claim 5**, Kashimura discloses that the monitor screen (7) is rotatably provided on the first side face of the body, (see Kashimura, Figs. 2 and 3).

As for **claim 6**, Kamamoto et al discloses that the monitor screen (7) is rotatable about a first axis that is orthogonal to the optical axis and about a second axis that is orthogonal to the optical axis, the first and second axes being orthogonal to each other, the first and second axes agreeing with each other in the direction of the optical axis, (see Kamamoto et al, Figs. 2-6, wherein the monitor is rotatable).

Regarding **claim 7**, Kashimura discloses a camera-equipped recording/reproducing apparatus, (see Kashimura, Figs. 1-3) comprising:

a lens assembly (11) having a lens group, (see Kashimura, Fig. 4);

a body (1) having a first side face and a second side face opposite to the first side face when viewed from an object to be photographed, (see Kashimura, Figs. 1-

4, wherein first side face is opposite to the grip and second side face is the face of the grip), the body being provided in series with and behind the lens assembly in a direction of an optical axis of the lens group when viewed from the object, (see Kashimura, Figs. 4 and 5, wherein the lens system is at front end);

Kashimura does not explicitly disclose a monitor screen on the first side face of the body.

However, Kamamoto et al discloses a monitor screen (7) provided on a side face of a video camera (see Kamamoto et al, Figs 2-5, wherein the LCD 7 is described in various position).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the LCD as described by Kamamoto et al into the camera-equipped recording/reproducing apparatus as described by Kashimura because the added LCD/monitor screen is useful for focusing and image reviewing, (see Kamamoto et al, column 1 lines 220-31, wherein, for instance, the LCD is useful when a number of people review recorded images at the same time).

Additionally, Kashimura and Kamamoto et al disclose

a grip (4) provided on the second side face of the body, the grip being rotatable about an axis almost orthogonal to the optical axis, (see Kashimura et al, Figs. 1-4 and column 3 lines 36-37 and 60-64 wherein the grip is rotatably centering the shaft 1a).

However, Kashimura and Kamamoto et al do not disclose the grip housing a recording/reproducing unit, wherein the grip is made up of a fixed cover and an

openable cover for housing the recording/reproducing unit, the grip being provided on the second side face of the body via the fixed cover.

On the other hand, Takagi et al discloses the grip (10) housing a recording/reproducing unit (99), (see Takagi et al, Figs 7, 21, 22 and column 7 lines 25-30), wherein the grip (10) is made up of a fixed cover (see Takagi et al, Fig. 7, between parts 10 and 13) and an openable cover (15) for housing the recording/reproducing unit (99), the grip being provided on the second side face of the body via the fixed cover, (see Takagi et al, Fig. 7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the grip housing a recording/reproducing unit as described by Takagi et al into the camera-equipped recording/reproducing apparatus as described by Kashimura and Kamamoto et al in order to provide storage compartment because such incorporation reduces the size of the apparatus, thus increasing portability.

As for **claim 8**, Takagi et al discloses that the grip (10) has a specific width (Takagi et al, Fig. 7, left to right) and a specific length (Takagi et al, Fig. 7, top to bottom) longer than the width, the grip having a first end and an opposite second end both lying on the length (see Takagi et al, Fig. 7).

Kashimura, Kamamoto et al, and Takagi et al do not disclose the grip having a grip belt laid across the grip from the first to second ends, the openable cover being openable while a user's hand is inserted between the grip belt and the openable cover so that a storage medium is loaded in or unloaded from the

recording/reproducing unit housed in the grip, irrespective of an angle from the axis almost orthogonal to the optical axis at which the grip has been rotated.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a grip belt with first and second ends lying on the length to the camera-equipped recording/reproducing apparatus as described by Kashimura, Kamamoto et al, and Katagi et al in order to firmly hold the apparatus because such addition helps stabilize the apparatus, resulting in better image quality, when it is operated for a long period by a user.

As for **claim 9**, Takagi et al discloses that the storage medium is a cassette tape (99), (see Takagi et al, Fig. 7).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Kuroki et al (U.S. Pat. 6,115,069) discloses a video camera with a swingable electronic monitor mounted on the same side as the cassette holder.
- Tagaki et al (U.S. Pat. 5,442,453) discloses a video tape recorder with a monitor-equipped built-in camera.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan H. Le whose telephone number is (571) 270-1130. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30-5:00 F 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tuan Le
Patent Examiner

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER